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1962-64

REPORT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE

(June 1, 1962 through June 30, 1964)

General Trends

Except for the greatly heightened tension which marked the Cuban Crisis of late 1962, the international situation remained fairly constant during the 1962-64 biennium. This being the case, the level of general civil defense activities likewise remained fairly constant.

During the two-year period, the Commonwealth suffered three natural disasters of consequence, namely, the Juniata River ice jams and floods of March 1963, the drought of September and October 1963, and the floods of March 1964. Agency operations associated with the two major floods were responsible, in large measure, for the fact that there was no loss of life. They also contributed materially to the alleviation of human suffering. Agency supply of emergency water works equipment during the 1963 drought made possible the uninterrupted supply of public drinking water to a number of communities throughout the State. In several others, the action obviated the necessity for temporary closure of industrial plants.

Program Emphasis

During the biennium, the agency has placed major emphasis on statewide activities associated with the National Fallout Shelter Survey, Marking and Stocking Program. Under this program, roughly 3,500 public fallout shelters, capable of providing protection for more than 1,500,000 people, were established within suitable structures throughout the State, including numerous Commonwealth-owned properties. These have been marked

with metal signs and stocked with emergency food and water supplies, medical and sanitation kits and radiation detection equipment, all supplied by the Federal Government. Other significant accomplishments include expansion and improvement of the agency's emergency communications facilities, together with inauguration of an expanded training program. The latter is carried out in cooperation with the Pennsylvania State University and with essentially full Federal financial support.

Administrative Accomplishments

In late 1962, the agency completed a reorganization of its staff, with all employees being legally placed under civil service in August 1963. This has assured the Commonwealth's continued eligibility to receive Federal financial contributions toward civil defense personnel and administrative expenditures. It has also resulted in increased administrative and operational efficiency and economies, with a slight reduction in the agency's authorized personnel complement.

Financial Trends

Reorganization of the agency's staff, including compliance with Federal requirements governing contributions for civil defense personnel and administrative expenditures, made possible substantial reductions in annual Commonwealth appropriations for civil defense, beginning in the 1962-63 fiscal year. In addition, stringent economies have been incorporated in all day-to-day work and activities. These accomplishments are reflected by the fact that the 1961-62 appropriation to the agency was \$454,738.00, while those for 1962-63 and 1963-64 were, respectively, \$329,181.00 and \$323,400.00.

